

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RULES ON PRICES, RUMORS AND "NIGHT CLUBS."

1. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WITH MOBUTU PRESIDING, ANNOUNCED  
FOLLOWING, NOTABLE DECISIONS:

A) BEGINNING 1 JUNE CLOTHING MATERIAL

(WAX) WILL NO LONGER BE SOLD IN MARKETS, BUT ONLY IN  
SELECTED STATE STORES. WHOLESALERS AND OTHER INTER-  
MEDIARIES ARE TO DISAPPEAR. PRICES WILL BE DISPLAYED.

B) RETAIL PRICES OF BEER REITERATED AND WILL BE  
RIGOROUSLY APPLIED.

C) AIR ZAIRE FARES ON INTERNAL ROUTES, WHICH WERE RECENTLY  
INCREASED BY 100 PERCENT, REDUCED TO 50 PERCENT INCREASE.  
BEGINNING 1 JUNE.

D) IN SPITE OF PRESSURE BY BUS COMPANIES TO RAISE  
FARES FROM 5K TO 12K, IT WAS DECIDED TO FREEZE FARES.

E) CITIZENS SHOULD KNOW THAT A CAMPAIGN TO DESTROY  
ZAIRE'S REPUTATION IS BING WAGED ABROAD AND THAT THE  
INSTIGATORS OF THIS SUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGN ARE TRYING TO  
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ESTABLISH NETWORKS INSIDE THE COUNTRY. APPROPRIATE

MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO PUNISH ZAIRIANS WHO LEND THEMSELVES TO SPREADING FALSE RUMORS.

F) IN VIEW OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MORALS OF THE PARTY AND IN ORDER TO PUT AN END TO THE DEBAUCHERY OF CERTAIN CITIZENS, BARS WILL BE OPEN DURING THE WEEK FROM 6 TO 11 P.M. ONLY. CLOSING TIME ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS WILL BE AT MIDNIGHT. AND ALL RPT ALL NIGHT CLUBS WILL BE CLOSED DOWN AS OF 1 JUNE.

2. THESE DECISIONS ARE BILLED AS THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO CRITICISM FROM THE LADIES DURING PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S RECENT TOUR. FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE KEYED TO ABOVE DECISIONS:

A) AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE WOMEN CRITICIZED THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE BECAUSE SHE AND HER FRIENDS HOLD THE MONOPOLY ON WAX. THE DECISION SEEMS RESPONSIVE ENOUGH, BUT IT ALSO STANDS EVERY CHANCE OF CREATING A THRIVING BLACK MARKET.

B) THE GOVERNMENT DECREED RETAIL PRICE OF BEER HAS NEVER BEEN APPLIED, AND WE DOUBT THAT IT WILL BE THIS TIME.

C&D) THE AIR ZAIRE FARE DECREASE AND THE FREEZE ON BUS FARES ARE GOOD NEWS FOR THE CONSUMER, BUT AS THE PRESS BULLETIN POINTED OUT--THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO PAY THE DIFFERENCE IN SUBSIDIES.

E) THE "SUBVERSIVE-ELEMENT-SPREADING FALSE RUMORS" THEME HAS BEEN A FAMILIAR ONE SINCE DEC. 30, 1974. WE EXPECT BOTH THE RUMORS AND THE GOVERNMENT'S CALL FOR THEIR END TO CONTINUE.

F) THE DECISION ON DRINKING HOURS AND CLOSING "NIGHT CLUBS" MIGHT MAKE SOME OF THE WOMEN HAPPY BUT THE BOYS ARE GOING TO BE HOPPING MAD. LIKE SO MANY OTHER EDICTS HERE, A GREAT DEAL DEPENDS ON THE ENFORCEMENT OR LACK THEREOF.

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